

April 16 2021

Noticias y Notas

News and notes from the Second Judicial District Court

JSDP's smooth transition to new GPS technology yields quick benefits

Technology upgrades nearly always make our lives easier, whether at work or at home. Often, however, we have to work through a few glitches with new technology before fully enjoying the benefits of our upgraded devices.



Pretrial Services Officer Nayeli Carmona-Olivas displays the Judicial Supervision and Diversion Program's new GPS monitoring technology.

That was not the case when the Judicial Supervision and Diversion Program moved all of its clients to a new generation of GPS monitors this past February.

"We transferred 100 people to new devices in two and a half days, and it all flowed really well," said JSDP Program Manager Marshall Dixon. "We seem to be off to the races."

The benefits of the new technology already are apparent, starting with a sharp reduction in condition of release violations due to defendants not being able to be tracked for a period of time because of dead batteries on their GPS devices.

Marshall attributes this improvement to the process for recharging the new devices, which is one of the primary reasons JSDP was eager to move to the new technology.

"The previous devices relied on a charger that plugged directly into the wall," Marshall explained. "That meant the user had to be tethered anywhere from 1 hour to 3 hours just charging the unit. They couldn't even move around their house. Also, because of the battery life, they had to recharge twice a day—once in the morning and once in the evening."

If the battery died, the person tracking that specific device would receive an alarm, and at that point, the person wearing the device was technically out of compliance with their conditions of release. That triggered a series of events starting with a pretrial services officer submitting a report to the court, and often the defendant having to appear before a judge to explain why the device could not be tracked for a period of time.

For the rest of the story, [click here](#).



Shout outs



This is the space where we sound the horn for outstanding performances.

This week's shout out goes to **everyone who participated in the first SJDC Virtual 5k Challenge**. You have taken many steps toward improving your physical and mental health. A number of folks who signed up for the challenge have not yet submitted their times. We are leaving the portal open to submit time until noon on Monday. Remember, everyone who submits a time is entered in the prize drawing. Details on the drawing will be coming soon. For now, get your times recorded.

Here is the link to the [5k site](#)

Virtual town halls are coming

SJDC CEO Katina Watson wants to update us on some issues that are important to us all. The topics range from how we, as court employees, will be affected by decisions made in the recent state Legislative session to changes to the Judiciary's COVID 19 protocols. She also will take your questions. Two separate town halls are planned. The first will be Monday, April 26, 2021 at noon, followed by a second one at 4:00 PM on Tuesday, April 27, 2021. Mark your calendar and be prepared to log in with your questions. Invites will be coming soon.



Yes, April is here, and this is the list of our SJDC colleagues who were born in this wonderful month. We wish them all the best.

Barbara Montano	Judicial Specialist 2, Domestic Relations Division
Corina Plata	Judicial Specialist Leadworker, Children's Division
Monica Lucero	Program Manager, Criminal Court Division
Keith Copson	TCAA, Family Court
Maria Guerrero	TCAA, Family Court
Benjamin Chavez	Civil Court Judge
Tammy Martinez	Paralegal, Court Arbitration
Erin O'Connell	Civil Court Judge
Gerard Baca	Judicial Specialist 2, PV Dockets
Latanya Burbank	Certified Court Monitor
Clay Campbell	Civil Court Judge
Sara Gallegos	Senior Software Applications Developer, IT
Kimberly Fenstermacher	TCAA, Family Court
Mailin Miranda	Court Clinician 2
Nicole Jaramillo	Judicial Specialist 2, Criminal Division



Here are the remaining April Birthdays.
Best wishes to you all.

Areli Martinez Lozoya	Judicial Specialist 2, Civil Division
Patrick Romancito	Judicial Specialist 2, Criminal Division
William Parnall	Children's Court Judge
Marshall Dixon	Program Manager, Judicial Supervision and Diversion Program
Andrea Lynch	Certified Court Reporter
Dawn Smith	Pretrial Services Leadworker
Monica Rodriguez	Deputy Court Executive Officer
Lucy Solimon	Criminal Court Judge
Nora Mancilla	Judicial Specialist 2, Criminal Division
Deana Rael	Judicial Specialist Leadworker, Criminal Division

Judge O'Connell promotes legal assistance programs in Albuquerque Journal Op-Ed

Our own Judge Erin O'Connell is co-chair of the New Mexico Supreme Court's Commission on Access to Justice. This group's goal is to make it easier for people of all income levels to get competent legal help if they become involved in a Civil Court action.

Judge O'Connell and her co-chair Ernestina Cruz, an attorney from Taos, and immediate past president of the State Bar of New Mexico, recently wrote an article for the Albuquerque Journal highlighting the increased the need for civil legal services during the pandemic.

They also identified some resources for people needing this assistance. [Read the article.](#)

We need more News and Notes

This newsletter is not just for you, it is about you—the employees of the Second Judicial District Court. If there is a person or event in your area that you think should be featured here, send a note to albdxh@nmcourts.gov. We look forward to sharing your stories.